Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method comprising:

sending an upgrade package over a computer network;

receiving, at a network device, the an upgrade package over a computer network sent

from a client device, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade software; and

in a network device; and

automatically upgrading internal software of a peripheral device installed in the network

device by appending contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header

containing instructions for the peripheral device for overwriting contents of software in the

peripheral device, and by transferring the packet header and the upgrade software to the

peripheral device by a connection. using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a

flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating

the peripheral device.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 including recognizing the received

package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the upgrade package.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 including recognizing the received package based on a

filename extension associated with the package.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically upgrading the internal software

includes:

opening a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

updating the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein upgrading the peripheral device includes:

setting the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parsing contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device;

and

transferring the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein setting the peripheral device to an upgrade

mode includes issuing a command to the peripheral device.

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 including sending a message indicating success or

failure of the upgrade to a source of the upgrade package.

9.   (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a computer network;

a network device coupled to the network; and

a peripheral device installed within the network device;

wherein the network device comprises a processor configured to:

    receive over the network an upgrade package ~~over the network~~ that includes a

flash erase file and upgrade software to update the peripheral device;

    append contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header

containing instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the

peripheral device; and

    transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a

connection to automatically upgrade the peripheral device. ~~and automatically upgrade~~

~~the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash~~

~~erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for~~

~~updating the peripheral device.~~

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to upgrade the

peripheral device's internal software with the package.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the network device is configured to recognize

the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the package.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the network device is configured to recognize

the received package as an upgrade package based on a filename extension associated with the

package.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to:

open a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

upgrade the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the processor is configured to:

set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device;

and

transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the processor is configured to set the

peripheral device to the upgrade mode by issuing a command to the peripheral device.

16.   (Canceled).

17.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is configured to send a message

indicating success or failure of the upgrade to a source of the upgrade package.

18.   (Currently amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores

computer-executable instructions for causing a computer system to:

        recognize a received package as an upgrade package intended for a peripheral device

installed in a network device, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade

software;

        append contents of the flash erase to a packet header, the packet header containing

instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the peripheral device;

and

        transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a

connection to automatically upgrade internal software in the peripheral device. ; and

automatically upgrade internal software in the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the

upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral

device and software for updating the peripheral device.

19.   (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system

to recognize the received package as an upgrade package based on information contained in the

package.

20.   (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system

to:

        open a communications channel to the peripheral device; and

        upgrade the peripheral device with contents of the upgrade package.

21.   (Original) The article of claim 20 including instructions for causing the computer system

to:

        set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

        parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device;

and

        transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

22.   (Original) The article of claim 21 including instructions for causing the computer system

to issue a command to the peripheral device in order to set the peripheral device to the upgrade

mode.

23.   (Canceled).

24.   (Original) The article of claim 18 including instructions for causing the computer system to send a message indicating success or failure of the upgrade.

25.   (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a port for coupling the apparatus to a network;

a peripheral device installed in the apparatus; and

a processor;

wherein the processor is configured to:

receive an upgrade package through the port, the upgrade package including a flash erase file and upgrade software;

append contents of the flash erase file to a packet header, the packet header containing instructions for the peripheral device to overwrite contents of software in the peripheral device; and

transfer the packet header and the upgrade software to the peripheral device by a connection to automatically upgrade internal software of the peripheral device. and automatically upgrade internal software of the peripheral device using the upgrade package, the upgrade package including a flash erase file for erasing contents of memory in the peripheral device and software for updating the peripheral device.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processor is configured to recognize the

received package as an upgrade package based on information contained therein.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the processor is configured to recognize the

received package based on a filename extension associated with the package.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the processor is configured to:

set the peripheral device to an upgrade mode;

parse contents of the upgrade package into a format suitable for the peripheral device;

and

transfer the parsed contents to the peripheral device.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the processor is configured to issue a

command to cause the peripheral device to enter the upgrade mode.

30. (Canceled).

31. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein upgrading the internal software of the peripheral

device occurs independently of a particular type of operating system on the client device.